

VI.—Note on the Genera *Oxygyrus* and *Bellerophon*. By W. H. BENSON, Esq. B. C. S.

When I described the *Pelagian* genus *Oxygyrus* in the 4th volume of the Journal, from specimens taken on the surface of the Indian and Southern Atlantic oceans, it did not occur to me to search for cognate genera in any other order than that in which the characters of the animal showed its place to be; still less did I expect to find any fossil shell allied to it; but recent consideration of the recorded characters of the fossil genus *Bellerophon* of MONTFORT, which was placed by that author among the *Polythalamous Cephalopodes*, and was subsequently removed by DEFRANCE, on account of the absence of septa, to the neighbourhood of *Argonauta* among the *Monothalamous Octopoda*, suggests the opinion that this shell is improperly associated with the *Cephalopoda*, and that its real station is among the *Nucleobranchous Gasteropoda*, with *Atlanta* and *Oxygyrus*, to the latter of which genera it appears to be intimately related.

The manner in which the umbilicated species of *Bellerophon* are convoluted, the acute keel which is observable in some species, and the sinus which indents that keel within the aperture, are characters which denote the affinity of the two genera; while the prolongation of the lips on either side beyond the umbilicus, and the shelly texture of *Bellerophon*, contrasted with the absence of any prolongation of the lips, the subcorneous nature of the habitation of *Oxygyrus*, and the sudden truncation of its partial keel, form sufficiently prominent characters to distinguish them as generic groups.

That no recent species of *Bellerophon* has hitherto been discovered, may be possibly owing to the *Pelagian* habits of the genus, and the paucity of observers of the interesting Oceanic *Testacea*. Without specimens I am unable to decide on a point on which RANG and DEFRANCE are at issue; the former stating, in his Manuel, that the shell of *Bellerophon* is thin; whereas, in the first volume of the Zoological Journal, DEFRANCE contrasts the great thickness of that shell with the thinness of that of *Argonauta*. Even supposing the latter statement to be correct, weight will not be considered likely to interfere with the *Pelagian* habits conjecturally attributed to the genus, it being now well ascertained that the ponderous *Nautilus Pompilius* ascends to the surface of the ocean with as little difficulty as the lightest of the naked *Cephalopoda*.

P. S.—In vol. 4, p. 175, there is a misprint in regard to the locality of *Oxygyrus*. 29° 30' S. lat. should be 39° 30' S. lat. The

erroneous locality is possessed of a temperate climate, whereas the real one is occasionally subject to the invasion of fields of ice, and therefore more strongly contrasted with the observed habitats in the vicinity of the line, and in the Bay of *Bengal*.

VII.—*Proceedings of the Asiatic Society.*

*Wednesday Evening, 3rd May, 1837.*

The Hon'ble Sir EDWARD RYAN, President, in the chair.

Colonel D. MACLEOD, Engrs. M. A. BIGNELL, Esq. Capt. S. F. HANNAY, and Dr. W. GRIFFITH, were elected Members of the Society.

Dr. J. SWINEY and Lieut. M. KITTOE, 6th N. I. were proposed by the Secretary, seconded by Capt. CUNNINGHAM.

Professor O'SHAUGHNESSY, proposed by Dr. CORBYN, seconded by Sir E. RYAN.

G. W. BACON, Esq. C. S. proposed by Dr. FALCONER, seconded by Mr. MACNAGHTEN.

FRANCIS ROBINSON, Esq. C. S. *Futtehgurh*, proposed by Captain FORBES, seconded by Mr. MACNAGHTEN.

The Bishop of Cochinchina returned thanks for his election.

Read extract of a letter from Major TROYER, the Society's Agent at *Paris*, proposing that honorary membership should be conferred on Baron SCHELLING of *Cronstadt*, the Mongolian and Tibetan scholar.

[Referred to the Committee of Papers.]

Major TROYER mentions that M. GUIZOT, Minister of Public Instruction, is about to sanction a yearly grant of about 2,000 francs, for procuring copies of Sanskrit manuscripts from *Calcutta*. The study of the Oriental languages is increasing fast on the Continent, and a fresh supply of our publications indented for on *London* has been immediately disposed of. Capt. TROYER's French translation of the *Râja Tarangini* would not issue from the press under a year, on account of the difficulties of printing the Sanskrit text.

Read a letter from the Secretary to Government, General Department, directing the packages of Oriental books to be sent to the Export Warehouse-keeper, and passing the bill for their package, Rs. 17.

The Secretary reported the death of BEHADUR, the pensioned *furash* of the Museum, who had been on the establishment since Sir WILLIAM JONES's time. He was with his wife burnt to death in one of the late dreadful conflagrations.

The account current of the Society with Messrs. MORRIS, PREVOST and Co. shewed a balance of £75 18 1 in favor, after paying the arrears due to the Oriental Translation Fund.

A letter from N. CARLISLE, Sec. Antiquarian Society, dated November, 1836, acknowledged the receipt of the Journal for 1835.